

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Fort Meade-based National Guard battalion changes command

FORT MEADE, S.D. – A Spearfish man took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), during an Aug. 21 ceremony at Fort Meade.

Lt. Col. Wyatt Hansen assumed command from Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since September 2013.

As the commander of the 1-196th, Hansen is now responsible for the planning, execution and support of the federal officer candidate school program and their eight subordinate OCS companies, as well as warrant officer candidate school.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to command a battalion that's responsible for developing future National Guard leaders," said Hansen, who has served in the National Guard for 27 years. "I'm fully conscious that a battalion command is an important assignment and I will give it my best effort."

Hansen works full time for the SDARNG at Fort Meade as the administrative officer for the RTI.

Bartunek, the departing commander, will be assigned to the 109th Regional Support Group in Rapid City as the executive officer.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



160819-Z-ZZ999-002: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Wyatt Hansen, right, incoming commander of 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, receives the unit guidon from Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander, during a change of command ceremony at Fort Meade, S.D., Aug. 21, 2016. Hansen assumed command from Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since September 2013. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

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